

	United States Department of Agriculture  Forest Service	<h1>NEWS RELEASE</h1>	<b>KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST</b>  1312 Fairlane Road, Yreka, CA 96097 (530) 841-6131 <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/klamath">www.fs.usda.gov/klamath</a>	
Date: September 1, 2011	<b>For Immediate Release</b>	<a href="http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2512/">http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2512/</a>  Contact: Fire Information (530) 841-4517		

## Onion Fire Update

**YREKA, CA**— After burning for almost two weeks in the Trinity Alps Wilderness, the Onion Fire has reached 46 acres in size. The fire, believed to have been started when lightning passed through the area on August 19, was reported by the Eddy Gulch Lookout on August 22, and has been staffed by firefighters from the Klamath National Forest since detection.

Fire crews continue to be successful in restricting the fire's growth away from hotter and drier areas containing heavy fuels accumulation that would cause damaging effects if allowed to burn under current conditions. Natural barriers (such as ridge lines, rock outcrops, wet areas and previously burned areas) are being used in conjunction with constructed fire lines to allow the fire to slowly grow and reduce hazardous fuels and restore healthy forest conditions within the containment area. The Onion Fire is burning south of Rush Creek, north of the ridge between Rush and McNeil Creeks, east of the confluence of Rush and McNeil Creeks and west of the major ridge between Rush Creek Lake and Packers Peak.

Current and predicted weather along with current and expected burning conditions have been considered in developing a long term plan for the Onion Fire. The fire will be allowed to grow within the established containment boundaries as long as burning conditions remain moderate and competing needs for fire fighting resources remains low. With the completion of reinforcing control lines, the number of personnel assigned to the fire has been reduced from 40 to approximately 25. A full, active suppression plan is in place and the fire will be extinguished should conditions become unfavorable. Firefighters will continue to protect lives, property, and resources throughout the course of the Onion Fire.

Smoke from the fire may be visible from Trinity Center and in the area of Coffee Creek. Smoke monitors are being set up near these communities to ensure that smoke impacts are low.

**Location:** 15 air miles southeast of Cecilville, CA    **Estimated Fire Size:** 46 acres

**Jurisdiction:** USDA Forest Service, Salmon-Scott Ranger District, Klamath National Forest.

**Cause:** Lightning    **Injuries:** 0    **Resources:**    **Total Personnel:** 22    **Evacuations:** None.

**Closures:** None at this time; hunters and Forest Users may see smoke or firefighters in the area of Lady Gulch Trail.

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